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7/29/02

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P. A. Billing-Medel., *et al.*

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL507388169US

Serial No.: (Not yet assigned)

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Box Patent Application
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For: REAGENTS AND METHODS
USEFUL FOR DETECTING
DISEASES OF THE
GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Date of Deposit: December 19, 2001

Examiner: (Not yet assigned)

Wanda E. Smith 12/19/01

Group Art Unit : (Not yet assigned)

Date

Attorney Docket No.: 6068.US.D1

Date: December 14, 2001

Wanda E. Smith

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The following amendment accompanies the Divisional Patent Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/049,698. Before beginning an examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend the application as indicated below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, please replace the first paragraph entitled: Cross-Reference to Related Application.

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application, Serial No. 09/049,698, filed March 27, 1998, which is a continuation -in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 08/828,856 filed March 31, 1997, now abandoned, from which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S. C. ¶120 and which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.